

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (As previously amended-now cancelled) A method of making an article of apparel used to cover a wearer's extremities comprising the steps of:

- (a) depositing a heat activated adhesive on the surface of a stretchable, waterproof, breathable membrane to form a coated membrane;
- (b) forming said coated membrane into a bladder having a perimeter of a first size and a first length and having an extremity receiving portion in the general shape of the wearer's extremity to be covered, said bladder having an upper portion having a smooth, glazed extremity engaging position for sealably engaging a portion of the wearers extremities and a lower portion, each said upper and lower portion having a smooth outer surface and a smooth inner surface generally conformable to the contours of the extremity to be covered;
- (c) placing said bladder over a first fabric member having a perimeter of a second size smaller than said first size and a second length less than said first length and being in the general

shape of the wearer's extremity to form a first assemblage having a third size, said first assemblage comprising said first fabric member with said bladder overlaying a portion of said first fabric member;

(d) placing a second fabric member over said first assemblage to form a second assemblage, said second fabric member having a perimeter of a fourth size larger than said third size of said first assemblage, and a third length greater than said second length of said first fabric member, including a lower portion and an upper, elastic cuff, said elastic cuff having an upper section and a lower section disposed in overlaying engagement with said bladder; and

(e) simultaneously heating and compressing said second assemblage at a pressure sufficient to form a composite in which said first fabric member is securely bonded to said bladder and in which said upper portion of said bladder is securely bonded to said lower section of said elastic cuff, said composite being such that said upper section of said elastic cuff extends beyond said bladder and said lower section of said elastic cuff urges said smooth, glazed extremity engaging

portion of said bladder into sealing engagement with the wearer's extremity.

2. (cancelled) A method as defined in claim 1 in which said step of simultaneously heating and compressing said second assemblage causes said heat activated adhesive on said upper portion of said bladder to melt to form a smooth, extremity engaging surface.

3. (cancelled) A method as defined in claim 1 in which said waterproof, breathable membrane comprises a thin, generally planar, smooth surface thin film having a wall thickness of about 0.0016 inch.

4. (cancelled) A method as defined in claim 1 in which the article of apparel comprises a sock.

5. (as previously amended-now cancelled) A method of making a sock used to cover a wearer's foot and lower leg comprising the steps of:

(a) depositing a heat activated adhesive on the surface of a stretchable, waterproof, breathable membrane to form a coated membrane;

(b) forming said coated membrane into a bladder having a perimeter of a first size and a first length and having a foot receiving portion in the general shape of the wearer's foot, said bladder having an upper portion and a lower portion, each said

upper portion having a smooth, glazed extremity engaging portion for sealably engaging the wearer's lower leg and lower portion having a smooth outer surface and a smooth inner surface generally conformable to the contours of the wearer's foot;

(c) placing said bladder over a first fabric member having a perimeter of a second size smaller than said first size and a second length less than said first length and being in the general shape of the wearer's foot to form a first assemblage having a third size, said first assemblage comprising said first fabric member with said bladder overlaying a portion of said first fabric member;

(d) placing a second fabric member over said first assemblage to form a second assemblage, said second fabric member having a perimeter of a fourth size larger than said third size of said first assemblage, and a third length greater than said second length of said first fabric member, including a lower portion and an upper, elastic cuff having at first lower section in overlaying engagement with said smooth, glazed

extremity engaging portion of said bladder and a second upper section extending beyond said bladder; and

(c) simultaneously heating and compressing said second assemblage at a pressure sufficient to form a composite in which said first fabric member is securely bonded to said bladder and in which said outer surface of said upper portion of said bladder is securely bonded to said first lower section of said elastic cuff, said inner surface of said upper portion of said bladder being urged into sealing engagement with the wearer's lower leg by said first lower section of said elastic cuff and said second upper section of said elastic cuff extends beyond said bladder.

6. (cancelled) A method as defined in claim 5 in which said waterproof, breathable membrane comprises a thin, generally planar, smooth surfaced thin film having a wall thickness of about 0.001 inch.

7. (previously amended) An article of apparel used to cover a wearer's extremities comprising:

(a) an adhesive coated bladder having a perimeter of a first size and a first length and having an extremity receiving portion in the general shape of the wearer's extremity to be covered,

said adhesive coated bladder having an upper portion having a smooth, glazed extremity engaging portion for sealably engaging a portion of the wearer's extremities and a lower portion, each said upper and lower portion having a smooth outer surface and a smooth inner surface generally conformable to the contours of the extremity to be covered said upper portion of said bladder being so constructed and arranged to engage the extremity to be covered;

(b) a first fabric member connected to said inner surface of said adhesive coated bladder, said first fabric member having a perimeter of a second size smaller than said first size and a second length less than said first length and being in the general shape of the wearer's extremity; and

(c) a second fabric member connected to said outer surface of said adhesive coated bladder, said second fabric member having a length greater than said second length of said first fabric member, and a length greater than said first length of said bladder, said second fabric member including a lower portion and an upper, elastic cuff for urging said smooth, glazed extremity engaging portion of said bladder into sealing

engagement with a portion of the wearer's extremity, said elastic cuff having a first section and a second section disposed in overlaying engagement with said smooth, glazed extremity engaging portion of said bladder.

8. (original) The article as defined in claim 7 in which said adhesive coated bladder comprises a thin, generally planar, smooth surfaced thin film having a wall thickness of between about 0.001 and 0.003 inches.

9. (original) The article of apparel as defined in claim 7 in which said article comprises a sock.

10. (original) The article of the apparel as defined in claim 7 in which said bladder has an upper extremity and in which said first section of said elastic cuff extends beyond said upper extremity of said bladder.

11. (previously added) An article of apparel used to cover a wearer's foot and lower leg comprising:

(a) an adhesive coated bladder comprising a continuous wall having an inner and an outer surface and including a foot receiving portion in the general shape of the wearer's foot and lower leg engaging portion constructed and arranged to circumscribe and closely engage the wearer's lower leg;

(b) a first fabric member connected to said inner surface of said adhesive coated bladder; and

(c) a second fabric member connected to said outer surface of said adhesive coated bladder, said second fabric member having an elastic cuff for urging said inner surface of said lower leg engaging portion of said adhesive coated bladder into scalable contact with the wearer's lower leg.

12. (previously added) The article as defined in claim 11 in which said lower leg engaging portion of said adhesive coated bladder includes a smooth, glazed inner surface conformable to the shape of the user's lower leg.

13. (previously added) The article as defined in claim 12 in which said adhesive coated bladder comprises a thin, generally planar, smooth surface thin film having a wall thickness of between about 0.001 and 0.003 inches.

14. (previously added) The article as defined in claim 13 in which said foot receiving portion of said adhesive coated bladder and said leg engaging portion thereof are integrally formed.

15. (added) A method of making an article of apparel used to cover a wearer's extremities comprising the steps of:

- (a) depositing a heat activated adhesive on the surface of a stretchable, waterproof, breathable membrane to form a coated membrane;
- (b) forming said coated membrane into a bladder having an extremity receiving portion in the general shape of the wearer's extremity to be covered, said bladder having an upper portion and a lower portion, each said upper and lower portion having an outer surface and an inner surface generally conformable to the contours of the extremity covered;
- (c) placing a first fabric member over a mandrel having a smooth surface;
- (d) placing said bladder over said first fabric member to form a first assemblage, said first assemblage comprising said bladder, said first fabric member and said mandrel, said first fabric member overlaying said lower portion of said bladder with said upper portion of said bladder extending beyond said fabric member;
- (e) placing a second fabric member over said first

assemblage to form a second assemblage, said second fabric member having a lower portion and an upper elastic cuff, said elastic cuff overlaying said upper portion of said bladder,

(f) simultaneously heating and compressing said second assemblage at a temperature and pressure sufficient to form a composite in which said fabric members are securely bonded to said lower portion of said bladder and in which said upper portion of said bladder is securely bonded to said elastic cuff, said upper portion of said bladder being compressed against said smooth surface of said mandrel to form a smooth, glazed extremity engaging portion for engagement with the wearer's extremity; and

(g) removing said composite from said mandrel.

16. (added) A method of making an article of apparel used to cover a wearer's foot and lower leg comprising the steps of:

(a) depositing a heat activated adhesive on the surface of a stretchable, waterproof, breathable membrane to form a coated membrane;

(b) forming said coated membrane into a bladder having a perimeter of a first size and a first length and having an

extremity receiving portion in the general shape of the wearer's extremity to be covered, said bladder having an upper portion and a lower portion, each said upper and lower portion having an outer surface and an inner surface generally conformable to the contours of the extremity to be covered;

(c) placing a first fabric member over a mandrel having a smooth surface, said first fabric member having a perimeter of a second size smaller than said first size and a second length less than said first length and being in the general shape of the wearer's extremity;

(d) placing said bladder over said first fabric member to form a first assemblage having a third size, said first assemblage comprising said bladder, said mandrel and said first fabric member, a portion of said bladder overlaying said first fabric member and a portion of said bladder extending beyond said first fabric member;

(e) placing a second fabric member over said first assemblage to form a second assemblage, said second fabric member having a third length greater than said second length of said first fabric member and including a lower portion and an

upper, elastic cuff, said elastic cuff being disposed in overlaying engagement with said portion of said bladder extending beyond said first fabric member;

(f) simultaneously heating and compressing said second assemblage at a temperature and pressure sufficient to form a composite in which said first and second fabric members are securely bonded to said bladder and in which said upper portion of said bladder is securely bonded to said lower section of said elastic cuff of said second fabric member, said upper portion of said bladder being urged into engagement with said smooth surface of said mandrel to form a smooth, glazed extremity engaging portion for engagement with the wearer's lower leg; and

(g) removing said composite from said mandrel.

17. (added) A method as defined in claim 16 in which said waterproof, breathable membrane comprises a thin, generally planar, smooth surface thin film having a wall thickness of about 0.0016 inch.